

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held remotely via Microsoft Teams and at the Council Meeting Room, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 7th September 2021.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: **AR Davies (Mayor)**
L Beedle, R Collins, K Edwards, A James P Jenkins,
R Martin, W May, R Penhale-Thomas, C Reeves, G Thomas,
L Thomas, P White and I Williams,

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs P Davies, R Lewis and S Smith,

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllrs R Collins, K Edwards, R Penhale-Thomas and P White declared an interest in items relating to Bridgend County Borough Council, including Development Control and Licensing.

Cllrs C Reeves and I Williams declared an interest in items that may relate to Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.

Cllr L Thomas declared an interest in items that may relate to AWEN Cultural Trust.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in an item of Correspondence relating to Maesteg Park FC

Cllr W May declared an interest in an item of Correspondence relating to access pathways to the miner.

143. POLICE MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed PC Hunter to the meeting and the following Crime figures were provided:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for August 2021

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	0	0	1	0	1
Burglary other	0	1	1	0	2
Theft of vehicle	1	0	1	0	2
Theft from vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
All other theft	2	4	7	0	13

Damage	2	1	0	0	3
Violence against the person	17	12	10	1	40
Domestic related occurrence	6	4	4	0	14
All crime total	23	18	20	1	62
Anti-social behaviour total	17	6	7	3	33
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

The following was raised:

- a) An issue of ASB behind the old family value store whereby a member of public was abusive to children attending dance lessons, tried contacting 101 and unable to get through and left a message, when they returned the call the incident and person had left.

PC Hunter advised that they are aware of the person and the incident reported will be investigated and PC Hunter will contact the member by telephone to update.

- b) A referral has been made to BCBC Safety Partnership regarding the ASB / afterhours drinking / drug taking at Celtic RFC – are SW Police aware of these issues?

PC Hunter advised that they are aware of the issues and this has been passed to the licensing team and there are additional patrols of the area.

- c) The figures for violence against a person are alarming are there any reasons for this?

PC Hunter advised that these figures include domestic violence, violence in pubs and other violence – unfortunately no further breakdown of the figures are provided and unable to comment further on incidents.

- d) Do you have any further details of the incident reported on social media in the early hours of the morning outside one of the venues on Commercial Street?

PC Hunter advised members that 2 people had been arrested and that there is an ongoing investigation into the incident. Additionally, this has been reported to the licensing team.

- e) Are shop keepers allowed to place bollards out when expecting deliveries as they prevent cars from using the parking spaces?

PC Hunter advised there is only an offence if they are obstructing the highway.

- f) Issue with constant speeding vehicles Neath Road and Heol Ty Gwyn in the evenings, could you refer this to the Go Safe team and ask them to target the area from 8pm onwards.

PC Hunter advised that he will pass this onto Go Safe.

PC Hunter queried whether the Christmas Parade will be going ahead this year. Clerk advised that this was to be discussed later in the meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the information

144. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that due to being on leave he hadn't attended any events or celebrations in August and thanked the Deputy Mayor for acting on his behalf.

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had attended 1 x 65th wedding anniversary and 4 x 50th wedding anniversary.

RESOLVED: To note the information

145. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- **Full Council** – 03/08/2021 – emailed to members 04/08/2021
- **Standing Orders Committee** – 09/08/2021 – emailed to members 10/08/2021
- **Finance Committee** – 10/08/2021 – emailed to members 13/08/2021
- **Extraordinary Council** – 18/08/2021 – emailed to members 19/08/2021
- **Standing Orders Committee** – 31/08/2021 – emailed to members 01/09/2021

copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record, all recommendations agreed and signed by the Mayor.

It was noted that members were unhappy that the Standing Orders Committee meeting on 31/08/2021 was not quorate and unable to proceed.

Cllr W May **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr G Thomas that 2 additional Cllrs are added to the committee in order for the Standing Orders to be updated.

Following no objections to the proposal Cllrs AR Davies and W May agreed to be added to the committee.

MATTERS ARISING

146. MINUTE 103

POLICE MATTERS

Deputy Clerk emailed the Sgt's 04/08/2021 – response received and forwarded to all members advising that they were busy with the incident in Sarn.

RESOLVED: to note the information

147. MINUTE 106
LLYNFI WOODLAND GROUP – EXTRA BIN

New metal bin ordered 05/08/2021.

Email received from the company to advise:

We do have stock, but at present we are experiencing a record volume of orders at present which has caused delays with production times and delivery times, with the added issue of staff having to self-isolate.

I would estimate delivery to be approximately 3-4 weeks.

You will however receive an automatic dispatch email so you know that the goods are definitely on their way. Delivery usually takes place over the next three working days from when this email is received.

I have added the days and opening times on your order and have requested for the driver to call prior to delivery.

Following this email estimated delivery would be beginning of September 2021, however the bin arrived at the end of August – bin was installed 6th September 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

148. MINUTE 107
REQUEST FOR GRIT BINS AT VARIOUS LOCATION IN MAESTEG

Maesteg East

1. On the grass verge at the junction between 26 & 38 Chestnut Grove
2. On the footway near to the junction for 96 – 112B mill view = request from resident for this to be located opposite side to the sign
3. On the grass verge opposite 17 Cross Street = request from resident for it to be placed next to the wall of 17 Cross Street
4. Opposite 41 Harvey Street by the street sign

Maesteg West

1. Adjacent to the lamp post outside 112 Yr Ysfa = On the wall by the sharp corner next to electric pole by 14 – 16 Yr Ysfa
2. Outside 49 Cwrt Coed Parc near the lamp post = Green fence near to 61 & 62
3. At the junction of fairfield avenue / pen yr ysgol and school road outside ysgol cynnwyd sant
4. Ewenny Rd near to the Bethania St junction

Nantyffyllon

1. Behind the grave yard opposite Old Anne's Enterprises
2. Opposite the Old Rock garage

Additional request for a grit bin at from the occupier of 18 Sychbant which is junction with entry into Maple Terrace, whereby the resident is happy to have grit bin placed on small grass patch at end of her fence.

Members agreed to fund the additional bin at Sychbant and to forward all the requests to BCBC Highways for installation.

RESOLVED: Clerk to forward all the requests to BCBC Highways for installation.

**149. MINUTE 111
TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET**

Clerk emailed OVW for advice on investment strategy for T&CC's and was provided with the following response that was forwarded to members of the Finance Committee 06/08/2021:

Thank you for your email regarding investments.

Guidance on investments is contained in the Governance & Accountability A Practitioners Guide (Page 58).

I've also attached some further One Voice Wales guidance along with guidance provided by Welsh Government.

You will note from the guidance that a Council should have an investment strategy/policy and attached is a copy of such a strategy that the Council could use to develop its own policy.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**150. MINUTE 116
REQUEST TO DISPLAY VERNON HARTSHORN EXHIBITION**

Email sent to the Miners Museum 04/08/2021. Awaiting date for storage of the exhibition.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**151. MINUTE 119
REFERRALS**

- Overgrowth overhanging footpath and the walkways of Church Street and Llynfi Road – advised that they had omitted the section of overgrowth by the bridge and Heras Fencing 04/08/2021

Response: Thank you for your email. This has been forwarded onto our Highways department for their attention.

- A member raised the issue of overgrowth of brambles on the footpath of Crown Road and Crown Row. - Clerk to forward the overgrowth on Crown Road and Crown Row to BCBC again

Response: Thank you for your email. This has been reported and forwarded onto the Highways department for their attention

Member advised that this location had been cut but the contractor BCBC used did not clear the debris from the footpath.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise BCBC about the debris left on the footpath

152. **MINUTE 121**
STONES IN CAERAU

Photographs of the stones in Caerau received.

Members agreed to proceed with tendering for the repairs.

RESOLVED: Clerk to proceed with tendering for the repairs

153. **MINUTE 122**
COMPLAINT RE ROADWORK BY PAPERMILLS

Email sent to the complainant 05/08/2021, no further complaints received.

RESOLVED: to note the information

154. **MINUTE 123**
INSURANCE RENEWAL

Email sent to OVW 06/08/2021.

Advice received and forwarded to all councillors:

I acknowledge receipt of your query unfortunately One Voice Wales does not have the knowledge or experience of insurance matters to advise on this, however have asked a contact in an insurance company that specialises in the Community & Town Council sector and who support One Voice Wales events who I hope will give me some impartial advice.

Lots of Community & Town Councils enter into agreements with insurance companies for more than one year to reap the benefits of reduced premiums but it is good practice that towards the end of the term of any insurance policy a Council test the market and obtain at least three quotes not only from the existing insurance company but others who specialise in the Community & Town Council sector.

The advice received from an insurance company “when any claim was submitted the insurance company who provided the cover would be obliged to consider and settle

the claim if proven and the fact that the Council may now be insured by an entirely different insurance company should not bear any relevance regarding the claim”.

That said he also said that if a claim is significant and likely to be settled it would appear to be unethical not to remain with the same insurance company to give them the chance to recoup some of the monies it has outlaid.

Therefore, the question of whether the Council remains for one further year with the current insurance company or whether the Council seeks quotations from other insurance companies that work in the sector would be a matter for the Council but it would not affect any outstanding claims.

RESOLVED: to renew the insurance quote for 1 year

155. MINUTE 125

ROOMS/PROPERTY TO LEASE – BRIDGEND

Email sent 05/08/2021

Response: Thank you very much for your response, it is greatly appreciated.

Could you please confirm the name/address of the building available, so that I can forward these details to my colleagues?

Building location details were provided and further email received to advise colleagues are very keen to proceed with this, could you please confirm if there is disabled access etc. and how many rooms are available?

Response emailed back to NHS advising there is disabled access and it would be best for them to visit to ascertain whether the rooms available are suitable.

A member requested that the Property, H&S Committee look at a policy for renting rooms, whereby another member advised that historically it was £10 per session (half day) and nothing for charities. It was **agreed** for the Property, H&S Committee to look into this.

RESOLVED: Property, H&S Committee to discuss a policy.

156. MINUTE 126

IRP REVIEW OF THE REMUNERATION FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS

Email sent 05/08/2021

Response: Thank you for your email, the contents of which have been noted and will be treated as part of the consultation responses for the Panel to discuss once the consultation has closed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

157. MINUTE 129

AGENDA ITEM 12 – TO DISCUSS SPRING BULBS FOR 2021-22

Clerk contacted Bryncelyn, Ty Llwynderw and Ty Newydd who all advised they would like daffodil bulbs. Clerk spoke to Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park who advised that they did not wish any bulbs this year.

05/08/2021: 45 x 25kg sacks of Spring bulbs have been ordered and should be delivered end of September / early October.

RESOLVED: to note the information

158. MINUTE 130

AGENDA ITEM 13 – TO DISCUSS OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

The Deputy Clerk has looked online for an official portrait of the Queen and they vary in price dependent on the size etc. Members agreed that a standard size portrait should be purchased along with the book of remembrance in readiness for Operation London Bridge. It was noted that there were varying views on the monarchy and Cllr AR Davies requested his objection to purchasing a portrait.

RESOLVED: Clerk to proceed with purchasing a portrait of the Queen and book of remembrance in readiness for Operation London Bridge

159. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2021

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£24,290.34)**, **Income (£4,129.36)** during the month of August 2021; copies of which had been circulated to Members, which included the DD payments, Faster Online Payments and Bank Reconciliation be accepted, confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

Members were also provided with:

- list of payments to be made in September 2021 totalling £5,573.09
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.

A member queried the renewal to OVW membership, however following a discussion and currently all Welsh Government information is received via OVW, Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr L Thomas that the membership is renewed. Cllr P Jenkins requested that his objection to this be noted in the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

160. COVID-19 SPECIFIC UPDATES & MEDIA UPDATES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Media Updates
- Welsh Government
- Keep Wales Safe

RESOLVED: to note the information

161. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- OVW Remote training sessions September 2021
- Briefing Note: for Community and Town Councils- Multi-location meetings
- Electoral Reform Newsletter

RESOLVED: to note the information

162. REFERRALS

- Overgrown hedge at the side of 76B High Street.
Response: Thank you for contacting Bridgend County Borough Council, this has been logged and reported to our highways department
- Hazard on the footpath outside of Caerau Progressive Club (154, Caerau Road CF34 0PD) has a 'beer drop' to the cellar which will fall through any day now.
Response: Thank you for your email it has been logged and reported with our highways department.

We work together with owners of empty properties to bring them back into use. However, some properties remain empty, are in a state of disrepair and are detrimental or a nuisance to the community. In these cases, we may use our legislative powers to bring the property back into use.

For more information please use the following link.

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/housing/empty-properties/>

A member advised that the area had been sprayed painted in readiness for works to be completed.

- Overgrowth on grass verge outside Coegnant Cottages,
Response: No response received to date

RESOLVED: to note the information

163. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY - GAMBLING ACT 2005

Email received from BCBC Licensing and forwarded to all members advising that BCBC is reviewing its Statement of Licensing Policy for Gambling. A copy of the draft proposals for 2022 to 2025 was included and any comments or representations need to be submitted by 10 September 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

164. NOTICE OF ELECTORS RIGHTS 2020-21

The Notice of Electors Rights 2020-21 has been placed onto the website as per the advice from Audit Wales with the following information:

Each year the annual accounts are audited by the Auditor General for Wales. Prior to this date, any interested person has the opportunity to inspect and make copies of the accounts and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts etc relating to them for 20 working days on reasonable notice. For the year ended 31 March 2021, these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to:

Mrs S Teisar
Town Clerk
Maesteg Town Council
Talbot Street
Maesteg
CF34 9BY

between the hours of 10am and 1pm, Monday to Friday
commencing on 20 August 2021
and ending on 17 September 2021

From 20 September 2021, until the audit has been completed, Local Government Electors and their representatives also have:

- the right to question the Auditor General about the accounts.
- the right to attend before the Auditor General and make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the Auditor General. A copy of the written notice must also be given to the council.

The Auditor General can be contacted via: Community Council Audits, Audit Wales, 24 Cathedral Road Cardiff CF11 9LJ.

The audit is being conducted under the provisions of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

A member requested that the notice is also placed onto the noticeboard.

RESOLVED: Clerk to place a notice onto the noticeboard

165. DRAFT LOCAL ELECTIONS (PRINCIPAL AREAS) (WALES) RULES 2021 AND DRAFT LOCAL ELECTIONS (COMMUNITIES) (WALES) RULES 2021

Email received and forwarded to all members with the above Welsh Government consultation. A response to the consultation is required by 24 September 2021

Members were provided with a response form completed by Cllr W May whereby a few questions responses were added.

RESOLVED: Clerk to send the completed consultation response to Welsh Government.

166. MTC CAT GRANT – MAESTEG PARK FC

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in this item and therefore, took no part in the discussion

Members were provided with the original application form whereby Maesteg Park FC requested funding towards their pitch ground improvements. MTC agreed to provide a £5k grant towards this.

Maesteg Park FC advised that they were able to receive a grant from BCBC to cover the majority of the cost involved in the ground improvements and are therefore only require £3,681.72 of the grant allocated from MTC. Maesteg Park FC are requesting whether the remaining £1,318.28 can be used towards the purchase of grounds maintenance equipment.

Members deliberated the request and Cllr K Edwards proposed and seconded by Cllrs P Jenkins, I Williams and L Thomas that as the additional request falls within the remit of the grant that the full allocation is given to the club.

RESOLVED: Clerk to process the £5k MTC CAT GRANT to Maesteg Park FC

167. ACCESS PATHWAYS TO THE MINER

Cllr W May declared an interest in this item and left the meeting therefore, took no part in the discussion.

Email received whereby resident has seen several posts on Facebook regarding “The Miner”. People with walking difficulties of all ages have expressed their disappointment not being able to visit the site, not only to admire and appreciate the carved monument but reflect upon a way of life that has vanished.

Is it within the remit of Maesteg Town Council to improve the access along the pathways thereby making them more accessible for wheelchairs and motorised scooters?

Deputy Clerk has advised the resident that Maesteg Town Council only maintain the rights of way paths under an agency agreement with BCBC and is limited to cutting back bushes and grass and maintaining the safety of the pathways.

Cllr K Edwards advised that this area is a bridleway and it would be highly unlikely to get permission to change a bridleway into a highway, additionally the land is owned by NRW and it would be for them to make any changes.

Members deliberated the information and agreed that a letter to NRW should be sent to see if MTC could go into partnership to make the bridleway more accessible to all users.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to NRW

168. COAL TIP SAFETY CONSULTATION

Email forwarded to all Cllrs as the consultation closes 10th September 2021

RESOLVED: to note the information

169. BLOCKED TOILET

Clerk sent a WhatsApp message to all Cllrs to advise that the toilet to the rear of the building has been blocked.

Clerk has contacted a number of plumbers to unblock the drains, however they were unavailable and advised to contact a specialist drain company. The drains were attended to on 02/09/2021.

Clerk was also advised that the Llynfi Road car park toilet was also out of order and an urgent email was sent to JC Decaux who attended and rectified the problems.

A member advised that the drains from MTC were not designed to cope with heavy usage and for members to be aware blockages could become problematic.

RESOLVED: to note the information

170. REQUEST FOR THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEET TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING – NOW C19 IS BACK TO LEVEL ZERO AND LARGE CROWDS ARE AGAIN GATHERING IN OUTDOOR EVENTS SUCH AS FOOTBALL STADIUMS AND POP CONCERTS THEN I THINK WE NEED TO CONSIDER...

1. The armistice parade
2. The Christmas parade and fireworks – see Agenda item 13.
3. Any festival activities – there is money set aside for it, is that going to be used?

Members were advised that Maesteg Branch RBL will be meeting week beginning 13th September and further information will be provided. It was agreed that the Events Committee meet to discuss when information is received.

RESOLVED: Events Committee to meet to discuss

171. MAESTEG TOWN HALL CHANDELIERS

Email received from BCBC whereby they are looking to rehome the chandeliers that were hung in the main hall at the Town Hall. We have had a request from a community member as to whether the Town Council would like any of these for the chambers. As such I email you today to seek your thoughts on whether the Town Council would be interested in rehoming a chandelier or two. If you could let me know your thoughts at your earliest convenience that would be great and hopefully, we can discuss further.

As a quick summary the size of each brass and glass chandelier is 1800 Diameter and 1200 deep. Please note the electrical fixings may need to be renewed.

Members deliberated the request and the Property, H&S Committee can discuss further.

RESOLVED: to be discussed by Property, H&S Committee

172. PHOTOCOPIER CONTRACT

The photocopier contract is due for review on 16/09/2021 whereby the current supplier is visiting the Council offices to discuss the photocopier account, review usage, costs, and requirements moving forward.

The current lease of the photocopier is until January 2022 and the service level agreement for the account is until May 2024.

RESOLVED: to note the information

173. SHAPING WALES' FUTURE: USING NATIONAL MILESTONES AND INDICATORS TO MEASURE OUR NATION'S PROGRESS – CONSULTATION

Email received and forwarded to all Cllrs with the above consultation that is running 1st September – 26th October 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

174. PARKING IN TALBOT STREET FOLLOWING DISPUTE – CLLR PHIL JENKINS

A shop in Maesteg Talbot Street received a delivery and placed bollards on the road outside for the lorry to park. The lorry doubled parked temporarily to remove the bollards and park in the space but when the bollards were removed two vehicles parked in the space and when explained that the space was for the lorry this caused a dispute which in future may lead to an altercation.

Members discussed this and agreed that it is for BCBC to discuss highways matters with the shop keepers.

RESOLVED: to note the information

175. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Following Council agreeing to the new S137 Policy from the Finance Committee it was **agreed** that all applications should be by application form and that the applicants in September be advised of the new policy and be sent application form.

RESOLVED:

- Clerk and Chair of Finance create an application form
- S137 Policy be placed onto the website
- Advise the applicants in for September meeting of the new policy and send them the application form

176. DELEGATES REPORT

Members were advised that there were no Delegates reports received for August 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

177. AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Following MINUTE 134 from August Full Council meeting whereby the NALC LEGAL TOPIC NOTE (LTN) – COUNCILS’ POWERS TO DISCHARGE THEIR FUNCTIONS advised in section 19 whereby it states that:

Prior to the introduction of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by s.100 (2) of the 1972 Act which confirmed the right of the public and the press to attend committee meetings, it was the practice of many councils to appoint itself as a committee to exclude the press and the public. The practice is not common in recent years but NALC is sometimes asked if it is lawful. There is no lawful reason why a local council should not appoint itself as a committee but in NALC’s view, there is no cogent argument for this. NALC’s view is supported in ‘Knowles on Local Authority Meetings – A Manual of Law and Practice, 8th Edition.’ Paragraph 9.68 on page 227 states that “a committee of the whole council cannot by definition be a committee of the parent body”.

It was agreed that the Committee membership would be looked at and changed from a full council committee to a 5-councillor committee.

Cllr K Edwards **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr A James that there should be 1 member from each Ward and the Mayor.

RESOLVED: Following no objections, the following Councillors were nominated and appointed onto the Projects Committee:

<u>Caerau</u>	<u>Maesteg East</u>	<u>Maesteg West</u>	<u>Nantyffyllon</u>
A James	P Jenkins	L Thomas	G Thomas

Mayor Cllr AR Davies

178. AGENDA ITEM 12 – READING COMMITTEE

Following MINUTE 134 from August Full Council meeting whereby the NALC LEGAL TOPIC NOTE (LTN) – COUNCILS’ POWERS TO DISCHARGE THEIR FUNCTIONS advised in section 19 whereby it states that:

Prior to the introduction of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by s.100 (2) of the 1972 Act which confirmed the right of the public and the press to attend committee meetings, it was the practice of many councils to appoint itself as a committee to exclude the press and the public. The practice is not common in recent years but NALC is sometimes asked if it is lawful. There is no lawful reason why a local council should not appoint itself as a committee but in NALC’s view, there is no cogent argument for this. NALC’s view is supported in ‘Knowles on Local Authority Meetings – A Manual of Law and Practice, 8th Edition.’ Paragraph 9.68 on page 227 states that “a committee of the whole council cannot by definition be a committee of the parent body”.

It was agreed that the Committee membership would be looked at and changed from a full council committee to a 5-councillor committee.

Members queried the purpose of the Reading Committee whereby Cllr May explained that it was for members to complete consultation responses to Welsh Government on behalf of Council in order that the view of one member was not taken. The Clerk advised that she could not find any meetings relating to this committee.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr G Thomas that as consultations are discussed in Full Council that the Committee be disbanded. Members unanimously agreed to this.

RESOLVED: Committee be disbanded and membership removed from Cllr information on website

179. AGENDA ITEM 13 – TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS 2021

1) GIFT BAGS

Following the success of the gift bags in Dec 2020 delivered to Ty Llwynderw and Bryncelyn Nursing homes and the additional request from Ty Newydd Clerk requests whether Maesteg Town Council will be providing gift bags in December 2021.

No. of residents	
Bryncelyn	66
Ty Llwynderw	10
Ty Newydd	16
TOTAL	82

Members agreed that the gift bags were successful and shows respect to the elderly residents. Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr L Thomas that we stick to £5 per resident in the above care homes.

2) SELECTION BOXES

Following the success of ordering the selection boxes early and delivering at the beginning of Dec 2020

Clerk requests whether Maesteg Town Council will pre order the selection boxes early in readiness for December 2021.

Currently priced on Cadbury's gift direct: £1.09 per 89g selection box.

Primary school pupil numbers need to be double checked mid-September

In 2020 MTC purchased 1800 selection boxes.

Members agreed to pre-order the selection boxes in plenty of time, however it was noted that ILC (Invest Local Caerau) had duplicated the purchase of selection boxes for children in Caerau in 2020.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and seconded by AR Davies that pupil number are checked and selection boxes are purchased in time for Christmas. Clerk to advise ILC that MTC are ordering selection boxes for all primary school children within MTC boundary to avoid duplication.

3) CHRISTMAS TREE IN CAERAU

In 2020 MTC paid 50% of the costs for the Christmas tree in Caerau. Clerk request if MTC will be providing the 50% of the costs for the Christmas tree in Caerau for 2021.

Members were unsure whether any fundraising had been made by the organisers for the Christmas Tree in Caerau. Cllr P Jenkins **proposed** and seconded by Cllr A James that MTC continue to fund 50% of the Christmas Tree costs in 2021.

4) TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN NANTYFFYLLON

Email request received from Cllr P Davies:

“I would like to agenda the following issue to be added to the agenda for debate in the September meeting by full council after being contacted by a local resident.

“Xmas decorations in the Nanty area”.

I am looking for the support of members and ideas as to what decorations are feasible and affordable by MTC.

Residents of Nanty feel left out at present to a total lack of any form of celebration within their ward.

Regards, Cllr Paul Davies, Caerau Ward.

As Cllr P Davies unable to attend the meeting it was agreed to agenderise this in October 2021 full council meeting.

5) CHRISTMAS PARADE

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas has emailed BCBC shared regulatory services for advice especially due to covid-19 pandemic as to the annual Christmas parade as crowds gather in their hundreds around the town and requires advanced planning.

Response from BCBC:

At alert level 0 things are less prescribed than under the higher alert levels. The onus is on businesses and the organisers of events to firstly conduct risk assessments with the aim of minimising exposure to covid-19 and its spread and to put in place the reasonable measures needed to mitigate the risk.

Quite how things will pan out from here is anyone's guess and as we approach the autumn and winter we need to be mindful that increasing incidents of covid-19 may lead to the re-introduction of certain rules and restrictions. An officer has been heavily involved in the ESAG process so when he returns from annual leave I am sure that he will be able to share the latest thinking. I know that discussions have been on going about a range of different events including of course the Elvis festival that traditionally goes ahead in September.

We know first-hand how upsetting it was in the run up to last Christmas to see events having to be pulled after so much work had gone into them. We will of course do all that we can to assist with planning for the Christmas parade but ultimately, there will always be a risk of changes having to be made as times passes and circumstances change.

We will be back in touch following the return of the officer – therefore more advice to come shortly

Clerk advised members that the ESAG meeting was scheduled for 15th September and Cllr R Penhale-Thomas had been invited to the meeting.

Members agreed that this should be discussed by the Events Committee following the ESAG meeting as it would be better to have a plan in place that could be cancelled if necessary. Additionally, it would be worth placing a statement onto the website to advise that MTC are awaiting guidance before making any decisions about a Christmas Parade in 2021. It was also noted that Christmas Lights would still go ahead in 2021 it is the parade that is in discussion. Likewise, the fireworks display is also in discussion and it would be beneficial to contact fireworks company about their policy for cancellations at short notice.

RESOLVED:

1. Order gift bags at £5 per resident
2. Check school pupil numbers and order selection boxes
3. Contact ILC to advise that MTC are ordering selection boxes for all primary school children within MTC boundary
4. Advise the Caerau Christmas tree organisers and Centregreat that MTC will fund 50% of the costs again in 2021.
5. Place Christmas lights in Nantyyfyllon onto agenda in October 2021
6. Place a statement onto the website to advise that MTC are awaiting guidance before making any decisions about a Christmas Parade in 2021
7. Contact fireworks company about their policy for cancellations at short notice
8. Wait for advice from ESAG meeting before calling an Events Committee meeting

180. AGENDA ITEM 14 – TO DISCUSS HEATING FOR THE BUILDING

Cllr May has requested the above agenda item as there still seems to be difficulties in sourcing parts for the boilers and with the proposed UK wide change from gas to other methods from 2025 should MTC be looking at alternatives now?

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr P Jenkins that this is added to the Property, H&S Committee to discuss

RESOLVED: item is added to the Property, H&S Committee to discuss

181. AGENDA ITEM 15 – TO DISCUSS BENCHES FOR THE CYCLE TRACK

Cllr Jenkins has requested the above agenda item as he has received many requests from residents for more benches along the cycle track especially on the incline up to Maesteg Comprehensive School.

Cllr Jenkins advised that he had received many requests from elderly residents for a bench halfway between Crown Road and Maesteg Comprehensive School due to the steep incline.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr A James that prices for benches is sought and to ask BCBC whether permission could be granted to install a bench halfway between Crown Road and Maesteg Comprehensive School

RESOLVED:

- Contact BCBC for permission to install a bench
- Once permission is granted seek prices for benches

182. AGENDA ITEM 16 – TO RECEIVE A CONFIDENTIAL UPDATE FROM CHAIR OF FINANCE

RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102 ‘Members of the public/press can be excluded by resolution if publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business and arising out of the business to be transacted’

183. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

184. PLANNING

Cllrs R Collins, K Edwards, and R Penhale-Thomas left the meeting; therefore, took no part in the discussion on planning proposals.

Members **Supported** the following applications:

Ref: P/21/610/FUL
Applicant: South Wales Fire & Rescue HQ
Location: Maesteg Fire Station Heol Tywith Nantyffyllon CF34 0TW
Proposal: Alterations of existing pitched roof to eliminate issues with water ingress and introduce section of flat roof
Case Officer: Lee Evans

Ref: P/21/756/DPN
Applicant: Siderise Insulation
Location: Unit 2 Forge Industrial Estate Maesteg CF34 0AH
Proposal: Prior notification to demolish steel frame building which is not safe or fit for purpose
Case Officer: Lee Evans

Ref: P/21/726/FUL
Applicant: Siderise (Holdings) Ltd
Location: Limited Forge Industrial Estate Nantyffyllon Maesteg CF34 0AH
Proposal: Demolition of existing out-building; construction of extension to existing production facility and external canopies, together with associated parking, landscaping, drainage infrastructure and associated works
Case Officer: Lee Evans

The following applications had **No Objections**;

Ref: P/21/710/LAE
Applicant: New Horizons Childrens Home
Location: Bramble House 91 Hermon Road Caerau CF34 0SY
Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use of using the residential home for an additional child (from 3 children to 4) - to allow for two siblings to be accommodated
Case Officer: Lee Evans

Ref: P/21/623/FUL
Applicant: SAMAWI Ltd
Location: Land rear of Princess Street Maesteg CF34 9BD
Proposal: 4no. detached dwellings, access road and landscaping
Case Officer: Lee Evans

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 10th September 2021

**Minutes accepted at a remote meeting of the Council
held on 5th October 2021**

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Mayor